



**Testimony
Kathryn Dube
Director, Membership & Legislative Services
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the Energy & Technology Committee
March 1, 2016**

Re: SB-168, AN ACT CONCERNING TRASH-TO-ENERGY FACILITIES.

COST ***supports with revisions SB-168***, which requires the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to complete a study regarding trash-to-energy facilities by July 1, 2017.

Due to the decline of natural gas prices, trash burning plants have seen a significant reduction in the price that they could obtain for power generated at the plants. Although the facility has implemented effective measures to reduce costs and mitigate the need for steep increases in tipping fees, a long-term strategy is needed.

A reliable revenue stream is needed to support the continuation of waste disposal operations in Connecticut. Otherwise, plants may be unable to continue operations, forcing towns to pursue out-of-state landfill alternatives. Such landfill alternatives may have serious environmental implications.

Clearly, a long-term strategy is needed to ensure that a reliable energy stream is identified that will support the continuation of waste disposal operations in Connecticut until other management technologies are implemented.

COST therefore supports revisions to the bill to ensure that the study includes recommendations and consideration of the critical issues, including:

- 1) How the loss of a trash-to-energy facility will impact the power grid; and
- 2) Whether trash-to-energy facilities should be granted a Renewable Energy Credit to provide a reliable revenue stream which will support the continuation of waste disposal operations in Connecticut until other management technologies are fully implemented.

Given the potential impact that delays in resolving these issues will have on municipal costs, COST further requests that the bill be amended to require the study to be completed by December 1, 2106 to ensure that the legislature can act on the recommendations in a timely manner.

COST is an advocacy organization committed to giving small towns a strong voice in the legislative process. Its members are Connecticut towns with populations of less than 30,000. COST champions the major policy needs and concerns of Connecticut's suburban and rural towns.